

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method in a single network element, the method comprising:

receiving, at the network element, a packet from a remote client, the packet being addressed to a destination;

examining the packet, based on one or more policies associated with the packet, to determine whether the packet should be redirected to another destination;

forwarding the packet, via a logical interface, to a redirect facility within the network element if the packet should be redirected to another destination; and

forwarding a return packet from the redirect facility to the remote client, the return packet including a redirect address associated with another destination.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising routing the packet, via a physical interface, to a destination indicated by a destination address within the packet or based on the one or more routing policies, if the packet is determined not to be redirected to another destination.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising specifying a timeout value within the return packet to indicate a time period within which a redirect message is displayed at the remote client.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the timeout value is determined based on the one or more routing policies associated with the packet.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising configuring the one or more policies via an application programming interface (API).
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - determining whether one or more replacement routing policies exist for the context associated with the packet; and
 - replacing the original routing policies with the replacement routing policies for subsequent accesses, if the replacement routing policies exist.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein whether the packet should be redirected to another destination is determined based on whether the packet is an HTTP (hypertext transport protocol) packet.
8. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable ~~storage~~ article of manufacture medium having executable code to cause a machine to perform a method in a single network element, the method comprising:

receiving, at the network element, a packet from a remote client, the packet being addressed to a destination;

examining the packet, based on one or more policies associated with the packet, to determine whether the packet should be redirected to another destination;

forwarding the packet, via a logical interface, to a redirect facility within the network element if the packet should be redirected to another destination; and

forwarding a return packet from the redirect facility to the remote client, the return packet including a redirect address associated with another destination.

9. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable ~~storage~~article of manufacture medium of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises routing the packet, via a physical interface, to a destination indicated by a destination address within the packet or based on the one or more routing policies, if the packet is determined not to be redirected to another destination.

10. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable ~~storage~~article of manufacture medium of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises specifying a timeout value within the return packet to indicate a time period within which a redirect message is displayed at the remote client.

11. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable ~~storage~~article of manufacture medium of claim 10, wherein the timeout value is determined based on the one or more routing policies associated with the packet.

12. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable ~~storage~~article of manufacture medium of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises configuring the one or more policies via an application programming interface (API).

13. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable ~~storage~~article of manufacture medium of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises:

determining whether one or more replacement routing policies exist for the context associated with the packet; and

replacing the original routing policies with the replacement routing policies for subsequent accesses, if the replacement routing policies exist.

14. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable ~~storage~~article of manufacture medium of claim 8, wherein whether the packet should be redirected to another destination is determined based on whether the packet is an HTTP (hypertext transport protocol) packet.

15. (Previously Presented) A single network element, comprising:

a forwarding engine coupled to a control engine, the forwarding engine configured to:

receive a packet from a remote client;
examine the received packet based on one or more routing policies to determine whether the packet should be redirected to a redirect destination; and

forward the packet to a redirect unit in the control engine for redirect processes if the packet should be redirected to the redirect unit; and a control engine including the redirect unit to forward a return packet with a redirect address corresponding to the redirect destination embedded therein from the redirect unit to the remote client so that the remote client can access the redirect destination based on the redirect address.

16. (Original) The single network element of claim 15, further comprising a storage unit to store the one or more routing policies.
17. (Original) The single network element of claim 16, wherein the storage unit further stores one or more replacement policies, which when activated, are used to replace the original one or more routing policies for subsequent accesses.
18. (Original) The single network element of claim 15, further comprising a configuration unit to allow a user to configure, via an application programming interface (API), the one or more routing policies.
19. (Original) The single network element of claim 15, wherein the forwarding engine forwards the packet to the control engine if the packet is destined to a predetermined port.

20. (Original) The single network element of claim 15, wherein the forwarding engine forwards the packet to the control engine if the packet is an HTTP packet.